

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 07648.0023-01

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
 )  
 **John CAIRNEY et al.** ) Group Art Unit: 1631  
 )  
 Division of Application No.: 09/973,994 ) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
 Filed October 11, 2001 )  
 )  
 Filed: September 2, 2003 )  
 )  
 For: DIFFERENTIALLY-EXPRESSED )  
 CONIFER cDNAs, AND THEIR )  
 USE IN IMPROVING SOMATIC )  
 EMBRYOGENESIS )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to the examination of the above application, please amend this specification as follows.

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